

parent-figures) he will very often try to part them in feeling, and to win one of them over to himself, against the other.

It seems (using our psycho-analytic evidence to illuminate observed behaviour) to be not merely that the child wants to reign supreme himself in the heart of one or other of the parents, not merely that he feels that if they love each other they cannot love him as *fully* as he would like, but sometimes also that their love for each other is an actual *menace* to him. It does not seem to him merely that they are not showing their love for him, not attending to him for the moment. It very often seems as if they are *withdrawing* their love from him. He feels literally left out in the cold ; the life-giving love he needs is actually taken from him. For to the very young child love is not first and foremost a state of mind, nor is it even a way of behaviour—it is something much more concrete than these. It consists of concrete physical experiences and even of actual bodily substances. It is (first and ultimately) the breast and the mother's milk—the smell and taste and warmth, the firm clasp of arms and contact of surfaces, the filling up of a cold void by the warm firm nipple and stream of milk. And this cannot be *shared*—it is either given or withheld. This is what love means for the child in his first actual experience, and what it remains in the deepest levels of unconscious phantasies. And these phantasies dominate much of his behaviour in the years we are now studying.

There are many further complications of feeling arising from the repercussion upon the child of his own rage and envy, with its consequent guilt and anxiety. To these I shall return later. But considering only the simplest and most direct aspect of the child's situation when he

fears the mutual
love of the parents, it should be possible for us
to see how
natural it is that he should feel jealous of the
love of father
for mother, of mother for father, of any two
adults upon
whom he depends for love and care—if we try to
feel the
situation as it comes to him in actual sensory
experience at
the earliest levels of mental development. It
should be
possible for us to understand why he so often
seeks to attach
the one or the other entirely to himself.

In my notes of recent years, I have gathered a
great many
instances of the way in which children who are
friendly and
amenable when with one grown-up only will
become fractious